

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-21, 23, 25-38, 40, and 42-51 were pending. Claims 9, 26 and 43 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 10-12, 18, 27-29, 35, and 44-46 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10-21, 23, 25, 27-38, 40, 42, and 44-51 remain pending subsequent entry of the present amendment.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

In the present Office Action, claims 1-4, 6, 8-21, 23, 25-38, 40, and 42-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The examiner states that the description does not disclose changing an incoming PCS to an outgoing PCS as recited in the claims. It is further suggested that a PCS, incoming PCS, and outgoing PCS are separate entities.

It is first noted that a “PCS” is a more general term than “incoming PCS” or “outgoing PCS”. However, both an incoming PCS and outgoing PCS are PCSs. Sometimes the shorthand “PCS” is used in the description when referring to either an incoming PCS or an outgoing PCS, with the context being determinative.

Applicant points to the following in the description as one example of support for the above referenced features. Pages 33-34 of the description include the following:

- “1. When a firewall receives a packet, the firewall determines the Incoming PCS
- ...
- 3. If the PCS is within the IFCS of the interface on which the packet was received, the firewall’s packet filtering mechanism performs an additional comparison of the actual Incoming PCS with the Incoming PCS specified in the rule.
- ...
- 5. If there is a match, and the action is to forward the packet, the firewall changes the PCS to the Outgoing PCS specified in the rule.”

Applicant submits it is clear from the above description that the antecedent for “the PCS” in #5 above is the Incoming PCS. Therefore, changing an incoming PCS to an outgoing PCS is supported by the description. Numerous other portions of the description support the same.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejections

In the present Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5-10, 12, 15-16, 18-19, 22-27, 29, 32-33, 35-36, 39-44, 46, and 49-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,226,748 (hereinafter “Bots”). In addition, claims 3, 11, 20, 28, 37, and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bots in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,167,052 (hereinafter “McNeill”). Claims 4, 13, 21, 30, 38, and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bots in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,085,238 (hereinafter “Yuasa”). Finally, claims 14, 17, 31, 34, 48, and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bots in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,266,773 (hereinafter “Kisor”). Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections and request reconsideration.

Applicant submits each of independent claims 1, 18, and 35 recite a combination of features neither taught nor suggested by Bots, or the additionally cited art, either singly or in combination. Generally speaking, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate features of prior claim 9. In the Office Action, claim 9 was rejected as being anticipated by Bots. For example, the following portion of Bots was cited:

“The receiving VPNU reverses the above processes for VPN traffic as illustrated by the flowchart of FIG. 4. The Receive Packet procedure 400 begins at step 410 when an inbound data packet is received from the Internet at the receiving VPN unit. At decision box 420, the inbound data packet is examined to determine if the source and destination addresses of the data packet are both members of the same VPN group. It is assumed that the lookup tables maintained by all of the VPN units are both consistent and coherent. If the inbound data packet is determined not to be VPN traffic, then the packet is passed

through and forwarded to the receiving site as though it were normal Internet data traffic at step 430. In which case the process ends at step 435. In one alternative embodiment, it may be desirable to discard incoming data traffic that is not from an identified member of a VPN group supported by the VPNU.” (Bots, col. 7, line 56 – col. 8, line 4).

However, the above disclosure of Bots describes processing which may take place upon receipt of a packet at a destination. For example, immediately prior to the above disclosure in relation to FIG. 3 of Bots, it is disclosed that “the processed packet is forwarded toward the destination address over the Internet. The procedure of the sending VPN unit then ends at step 355.” (Bots, col. 8, lines 52-55).

In contrast to the above disclosure of Bots, claim 1 as amended recites “comparing said outgoing PCS with a destination community set of said first data packet, prior to transmitting the first data packet to said destination community.” Accordingly, further packet processing within a transmitting node is recited and distinguishes the claim from the cited art. Therefore, claim 1 is believed patentable. Further, as each of independent claims 18 and 35 include similar features, each of claims 18 and 35 are believed patentable for similar reasons. As each of the dependent claims include at least the features of the independent claims upon which they depend, each of the dependent claims are patentable for at least the above reasons. No further discussion of the dependent claims is believed necessary at this time.

Applicant believes the application to be in condition for allowance. However, should the examiner believe otherwise, the below signed representative requests a telephone interview (512) 853-8866 in order to facilitate a speedy resolution.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5181-75900/RDR.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

Return Receipt Postcard

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: 11/13/05